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SOVIET UNION TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS IN NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN

/Numbers in parenthesis refer to appended sources./

According to F. T. Sadowsky, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry USSR, appropriations for the construction of housing in the new Five-Year Plan are double those in the previous Five-Year Plan. By the end of the new Five-Year Plan, capital investments in communal construction will increase approximately 50 percent over 1950.

In line with this planning, the output of basic building materials will be doubled. It is expected to increase the production of brick approximately 230 percent, slate 260 percent, and polished glass 400 percent.

To conform to the directives issued by the 19th Party Congress, which called for an increase in the production of construction materials, existing enterprises are making adjustments to meet the increases, new enterprises are being built, and manufacture of new products is being mastered. During the 5-year period, it is planned to build or reconstruct, and put in operation, about 600 enterprises which will produce construction materials.

The production of a variety of cements, such as sulphate-resisting, dilating, hydrophobic, and plasticized cements, has been mastered.(1) In the new Five-Year Plan, the manufacture of hydrophobic and plasticized cements will be greatly expanded. Neither of these cements is too susceptible to dampness and, in concrete mixing, they save up to 10 percent of cementing materials.(2)

The use of plasticized cement in concrete manufacturing makes it possible to decrease the quantity of water ordinarily required and thus to increase the resistance of the construction to freezing. Sulphate-resisting cement is used for concrete and reinforced concrete constructions which are exposed to concrete-corroding water, mainly sea water.(1) The use of this cement in building

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will be increased. The cement plants are also producing a dilating cement which is used for calking high-pressure water pipe joints and the seams between pipes in subway tunnels, for filling the seams between the sectional reinforced concrete elements, and for sealing reinforced concrete reservoirs and pipes.

An increase will be made also in the production of aluminiferous cement, which hardens completely in 3 days instead of 28 days, and in the production of white and colored cements for facing building fronts.

The increasing production of reinforced concrete products demands the use of higher grades of cement, with the result that, in the new Five-Year Plan, a considerable increase is expected in the production of higher-grade cements "400," "500," and "600." In 1955, these grades will constitute the major production of the cement plants, including those of the Moscow Oblast, namely: Podol'sk, Shchurovo, Voskresensk, and "Gigant," all of which produce for the building projects of Moscow and Moscow Oblast.(2)

For the first time, an industry of reinforced concrete products in being established during the new plan. Thirty mechanized plants for reinforced concrete products must be established in various cities of the USSR. The new plants are being built according to modern technology and will use assembly and conveyor belt lines which will make it possible to attain products of high quality with minimum effort.(1)

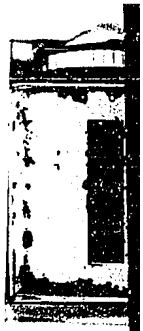
The first completely mechanized plants for sectional reinforced concrete are being built in Moscow, Lyubertsy, Stalingrad, Kiev, and Leningrad. The annual capacity of these plants will be 120,000 cubic meters of reinforced concrete products.(2) The Moscow and Lyubertsy plants are expected to produce large side- and covering-panels for the 8- to 14-story houses being built in Moscow. In 1954, these plants will produce enough sectional materials to erect 700,000 square meters of housing a year. The increased use of sectional reinforced concrete products will cut both labor and costs involved in building, as well as hasten the tempo of building. By the end of the Five-Year Plan, enough reinforced concrete structures and products will be manufactured to build more than 5 million square meters of housing and industrial buildings.(1)

Soviet building is demanding a higher grade of glass, especially polarized glass. Equipment for polishing and polarizing glass has recently been put in operation at the Gusev Glass Plant. The Misheronskiy Glass Plant, located near Moscow, is being expanded as well as mechanized.(2) The glass manufacturing industry will expand the production of plate glass, foam glass /peno steklo/, vitreous glass, glass pipe, and various architectural building items.(1)

The brick industry is also in line for a transformation during the Five-Year Plan. Old brick plants are being reconstructed and new brick plants are being built. Manual labor will be replaced by mechanized facilities, and seasonal operations will give way to yearlong operations of the plants.

The largest brick plant in the Soviet Union, the Cheremushki Brick Plant, which is subordinate to the Moscow City Administration of Construction Materials Industry, is being completely reconstructed. New shops, mechanized with tunnel kilns and highly productive forming equipment, have recently been built. This plant was the first Soviet brick plant to make use of containers in brick loading.

The Vorontsovo, Khlebnikovskiy, and Golitsinskiy brick plants and the Volokolamsk, Kuchino, and Mytishchi brick plants of the Moscow Oblast, as well as other Moscow Oblast brick plants, are also being reconstructed. There is



a great demand for brick. Nineteen brick plants of Moscow and the Moscow Oblast are now able to supply over 1,400 bricks per cubic meter of kiln as compared to 1,000 capacity in 1950. The Nikol'skiy and Nizhnekotel'skiy plants have been able to reach an output of over 2,200 bricks. The Vorontsovo, Cheremushki, and Moscow Experimental brick plants are striving to mechanize brick charging and discharging, as well as to mechanize the separation of raw material from the brick press. Before very long, the entire brick industry will be completely mechanized.

The brick plants are also expanding their variety of products. The Cheremushki, Kuchino, Beskudnikovo, and other Moscow Oblast brick plants have started mass production of hollow bricks and ceramic blocks, which makes it possible to reduce the thickness of the wall and thus save 20-30 percent of brick. A mechanized ceramic block shop, whose tunnel kilns operate on natural gas, has recently been built at the Beskudnikovo plant to manufacture hollow blocks for the Moscow suburbs. Similar shops are to be erected at other plants in various cities of the USSR.

In line with the manufacture and use of red brick, it will be necessary to expand the manufacture of wall materials, such as large-size wall panels, hollow concrete, silicate, loam silicate, cinder and carbonized blocks and slabs. The cost of producing these materials is 20-30 percent less than for clay brick. Their use in building will reduce labor 25-50 percent and will cut the need for mortar 30-70 percent.

The Pavshinskiy Plasterboard Plant and the Kuchino and Kudinovo ceramic block facing plants, all of which recently began operation, and the Danilovskiy Alabaster Plant, which is undergoing reconstruction, are expected to meet building demands for gypsum and ceramic products in Moscow and Moscow Oblast.(2)

The output of plasterboard is expected to be increased 1400 percent under the new Five-Year Plan. The Danilovskiy plant is already mastering the production of gypsum-fibered plasterboard, in which highly expensive cardboard is replaced by wooden fibers, thus making possible additional reductions in production costs.

The two newly constructed Moscow suburban ceramic plants at Kuchino and Kudinovo have been converted completely to the manufacture of front facing ceramic products. Manufacture of a variety of ceramic ceiling tile and glazed facing tile is contemplated. The output of so-called carpet mosaic, for use in floors, will be increased considerably.

To improve the quality of ceramic used in sanitorium building, the pottery producing plants are being converted to the manufacture of light-colored, less water-absorbent, and more durable semi-porcelain. The Lobnenskiy Ceramic Plant near Moscow, in particular, is already manufacturing semi-porcelain products.

One of the newest developments in the construction materials industry is the manufacture of asbestos-cement products. At present, Soviet enterprises are producing large quantities of large-size plates, measuring up to 2.8 meters long, for covering roofs and sides of industrial buildings, large-size plates for subway arches, and rectangularly cut pipes for high buildings.

The soft-roofing industry will produce armored rubberoid (roof sheeting material), colored bitumen sheets for floors and walls.(1)

The production of light-weight floor covering material made from armored loam cement and armored loam silicate, and a variety of corrugated, trough, and box-like floor covering materials made from asbestos cement will be increased 400 percent. The use of these products in building will cut the use of metal 25 percent, and will save up to 75 percent in labor costs.(2)

Significant changes, qualitative as well as quantitative, will take place in the sanitary-technical equipment industry.(1) Because of the expected increase in the manufacture of sanitary-technical equipment, hardware products, and accessories, the plants producing these items will have to make changes in technology as well as to mechanize and automatize the leborious work methods. This applies especially to those plants which produce radiators, bath tubs, and equipment for sanitary units.(2) In the near future, it is expected to produce new type living accessories and higher quality doors and window fixtures. The Glavsantekhprom's (Main Administration of Sanitary and Technical Equipment Industry) plant is planning to produce new equipment for bathrooms and kitchens, and special sanitary-technical fixtures for hospitals, schools, and childrens' establishments.

Together with the increase to be made in production volume and a considerable improvement in product quality, of paramount importance is the reduction in the cost of building materials. By 1956, the selling prices of building materials must be reduced at least 25-30 percent.

In addition to the eight-room houses being produced now, the prefabricated housing industry will manufacture two- to six-room houses which will have all conveniences, including central heating.(1)

SOURCES

1. Vechernyaya Moskva, 30 Jan 53

2. Moskovskaya Pravda, 27 Feb 53

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